

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 IO-13 ACDA-12 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 HA-05  
MCT-01 /103 W

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P 231330Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1954  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 19417

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EG IS UR XF  
SUBJ: SOVIET DIPLOMAT'S COMMENTS ON SADAT VISIT TO ISRAEL

1. SOVIET FIRST SECRETARY ALEXANDER AXENENOK, WHO ONE OF SOVIET EMBASSY'S ARAB AFFAIRS EXPERTS, TOOK CONCILIATORY LINE RE IMPLICATIONS OF SADAT'S VISIT TO JERUSALEM IN DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 22. AXENENOK PRAISED SADAT'S "BOLD INITIATIVE", CONCEDED THAT KNESSET SPEECH HAD NOT COMPROMISED BASIC ARAB NEGOTIATING STANCE, AND NOTED THAT VISIT DID HAVE "CONSIDERABLE" SUPPORT WITHING EGYPT. AXENENOK THOUGHT SADAT HAD CONSIDERABLY MORE ROOM FOR MANEUVER THAN ASAD, A MINORITY ALAWITE, HEMMED IN BY SYRIAN BATH PARTY AND CONFRONTED BY A HOSTILE IRAQ, BUT MOSCOW DID NOT BELIEVE THAT SYRIA COULD AFFORD TO JOIN ALGERIA, LIBYA, AND IRAQ IN ANTI-EGYPTIAN REJECTION FRONT. SOVIETS BELIEVE THAT  
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SADAT'S MOVE WILL PROBABLY IRREVOCABLY SPLIT PLO INTO NEGOTIATING AND REJECTIONIST CAMPS, SINCE ARAFAT TOTALLY UNPREPARED FOR POST-JERUSALEM "NEW ERA" INTO WHICH SADAT HAS PLUNGED ARABS.

2. PRIMARY SOVIET CONCERN AT PRESENT IS WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO GENEVA MEPC. SADAT VISIT TO ISRAEL HAS RAISED SOVIET

SUSPICIONS THAT FINAL GENEVA SETTLEMENT MIGHT BE PRE-ARRANGED VIA BILATERAL CONTACTS AMONG INTERESTED PARTIES, CUTTING SOVIETS OUT OF PEACE PROCESS. AXENENOK VOICED CONCERN THAT MEPC MIGHT SIMPLY BE "RUBBER STAMP", BUT AVOIDED CONDEMNING BILATERAL CONTACTS BY SIMPLY NOTING THAT MOSCOW WISHED TO DETERMINE EXACTLY HOW PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE CONDUCTED. SOVIETS ALSO CONCERNED THAT SYRIAN OPPOSITION TO SADAT'S VISIT MIGHT UNDERMINE PREVIOUSLY AGREED-UPON UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION CONCEPT, THUS FURTHER DELAYING MEPC.

3. COMMENT: TONE OF SOVIET'S COMMENTS WAS CONSISTENTLY MILD, TO EXTENT THAT HE EVEN DOWN-PLAYED SOVIET EDITORIAL CRITICISM OF VISIT, NOTING THAT "FRANKLY" MOSCOW REALIZES THAT ARABS AND ISRAELIS MUST DEAL WITH EACH OTHER. AXENENOK NOTED THAT SOVIET EMBASSY IN CAIRO HAD HAD LONG MEETING NOVEMBER 21 ON RAMIFICATIONS OF SADAT VISIT. JUDGING FROM HIS COMMENTS, LOCAL SOVIETS UNCLEAR EXACTLY WHAT RAMIFICATIONS OF SADAT'S INITIATIVE WILL BE AND ARE HESITANT TO ADOPT TOO HARD A POSITION UNTIL WATERS SLIGHTLY LESS MUDDIED. PRIMARY SOVIET CONCERN AT PRESENT SEEMS TO BE THAT SADAT, PROBABLY WITH AMERICAN ENCOURAGEMENT, TRYING TO CUT MOSCOW OUT OF PEACE PROCESS BY TURNING MEPC INTO SHOWCASE FOR AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED ELSEWHERE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Subject:** SOVIET DIPLOMAT'S COMMENTS ON SADAT VISIT TO ISRAEL  
**TAGS:** OVIP, PGOV, EG, IS, UR, XF, (SADAT, ANWAR), (AXENENOK, ALEXANDER)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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